

## ***Pan Arab Neuroradiology Society, 10 years later***

*The concept of formulating the Pan Arab Neuroradiology Society (PANRS) started in May 1993 after the World Federation of Neuroradiological Societies had taken the decision to encourage the establishment of regional Neuroradiological societies throughout the world, with the aim of improving this important and interdisciplinary subspeciality.*

*Dr. Hassan Sharif was the representative at the founding committee of the World Federation of Neuroradiological Societies (WFNRS), and attended the meeting in Vancouver. Under the guidance of the late Derek Harwood Nash, who was then the Acting Secretary General of the WFNRS, the idea of creating the Pan Arab NeuroRadiological Society was born.*

*The Pan Arab NeuroRadiological society was consequently established in 1994 at its founding meeting, which took place in Beirut, Lebanon. Dr. Khalaf Al Moutaery (KSA), Dr. Ghassan Rizk (Lebanon), President of the Lebanese Radiology Society and Dr. Ashraf Kurdi (Jordan), President of the Pan Arab Neurology Society, were present at the meeting on behalf of the WFNRS . The other representatives within the Founding Committee were Dr. M. Al Deeb (Egypt), Dr. M. A Al Thagafi (KSA), Dr. N. Atallah (Lebanon), Dr. M. Hiari (Jordan), Dr. N. Jamsheer (Bahrain), Dr. M. Rudwan (Kuwait), Dr. B. Sawwaf (Syria), and Dr. S. Touibi (Tunisia).*

*A second and equally important reason for establishing a regional Pan Arab Society was to put together efforts to form serious scientific societies, arrange symposia and post-graduate teaching courses, with the aim of improving the practice of neuroradiology and its development throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.*

*As the society is still in its early stages, it is our intention to encourage the new generation of neuroradiologists to join and take advantage of what we, as a Society, can offer. Our future relies on the support from each other so that we can ensure the best possible standards for neuroradiological practice.*

*Since the establishment of the PANRS, we have had the opportunity to organise two Pan Arab African Society Symposiums. In November 1996, a two-day meeting was held in Cairo where both national and international speakers presented lectures on a wide range of interesting topics. During the meeting, Dr. H. Sharif apologized for not being able to carry out his original plans. Dr. M. A. Al Thagafi replaced him for the remaining term as President and Dr. Jehad Al Watban, Head of Neuroradiology at King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh acted as Secretary General-Treasurer.*

*In November 1998, the second meeting took place in Tunisia where once again national and international Faculty shared their experience within the field. During the meeting, a new Executive Committee was formed. Dr. M. A. Al Thagafi was elected President and Treasurer of the PANRS for another four years, Dr. J. Al Watban remained the Secretary General and Dr. Tajuddine Malabarey (KSA) joined the board as the Educational Advisor. Proposed bylaws for the PANRS were distributed to all members for consideration. A Newsletter to the PANRS was introduced. Its aim was to create a link*

*between all members, with the objective of “popularising the activities of the neuroradiologists practising Neuroradiology in the Arab world, offering a medium of exchange between the various practitioners in Neurosciences, and bringing viewpoints of the society into the public domain”, as mentioned by T. Malabarey, Editor-In-Chief, in his editorial reported in the first issue published in 1988.*

*The third scientific Congress and Course of the PANRS was held in Jordan in June 2000 under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Hiari, President of the PANRS and Dr. A. Halilah, secretary-General. Invited speakers from USA and Canada such as Dr. Ann Osborne, Dr. William Ball, Dr. Mahmood Mafee, and Dr. Michael Modic contributed to the success of the meeting. This PANRS meeting followed a special symposium entitled “Advances in Neuroimaging” organized, in Beirut in April 2000, in collaboration with the PANRS as a joint meeting with the VIII<sup>th</sup> Pan Arab Union of Neurological Sciences conference and placed under the auspices of the NeuroRadiology Research Group of the World federation of Neurology (WFN-RGNER) and the World Academy of Biomedical Technology (WABT). The program, endorsed by the WFN provided an opportunity for close interaction between neuroradiologists of the PANRS, neuroscientists involved in imaging of the nervous system and neurologists of the PAUNS, and for fostering the development of an interdisciplinary approach to neuroimaging to fulfil the objectives of the WFN-RGNER founded in 1995.*

*We are pleased and honoured to be given the opportunity to organize, in Beirut, on September 16-17, 2004, the IV<sup>th</sup> PANRS congress and course, placed under the auspices of the WFNRS, the WFN-RGNER and the WABT-ME, and in collaboration with the Lebanese Societies of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Radiology. We are also deeply grateful for the invaluable academic contribution of all the speakers from the Middle East and North Africa, for the outstanding European V<sup>th</sup> Course Faculty members, Dr. Danielle Balériaux (Belgium), Dr. Serge Bracard (France), Dr. Claude Marsault (France), Dr. Luc Picard (France), President-Elect of the WFNRS, Dr. Jordi Rusalleda (Spain), President-Elect of the ESNR, Mr. Mario F. Secca (Portugal), Dr. Bassam Soussi (Sweden) and Dr. Jean-Louis Stievenart (France). Finally, this meeting would not be successful without the close and efficient collaboration with Dr. Maurice Haddad, President of the Lebanese Society of Radiology.*

*The President of the PANRS, the members of the Board and the President of the 4<sup>th</sup> PANRS meeting, wish to express their deep gratitude to the President of the WFNRS, Professor Michael S. Huckman (Chicago, USA), for his personal support to the Pan Arab Neuroradiology Society and its IV<sup>th</sup> meeting in Beirut.*